



# Our Public Lands

Fall 1964

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New Laws for the Land

See Page 4



# OUR PUBLIC LANDS

FALL 1964



VOL. 14, NO. 2

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Stewart L. Udall, Secretary

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Charles H. Stoddard, Director

*Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—a Department of Conservation—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and Territorial affairs.*

*As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.*

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Ed. Kerr, Editor

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# News Highlights

## Job Corps To Aid Public Lands

Public land conservation will be strongly boosted by the Job Corps youth camp system established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, according to BLM Director Charles H. Stoddard.

Several such camps will be situated on public domain in the West, on sites where there is opportunity and need for active conservation programs. Youth camps on BLM-administered lands will be under Bureau jurisdiction, and their work projects will be incorporated as far as possible into regular Bureau programs.

"Job Corps carries President Johnson's war on poverty to two fronts," Director Stoddard said. "It is a two-pronged attack on youth unemployment and natural resource waste, both critical national problems. By working on varied resource projects, enrollees in public land camps will not only gain job skills for productive lives after enrollment, but will also strengthen our conservation efforts."

The first public land camp is scheduled for activation early this autumn near Tillamook, Oreg., with others to follow in close succession. Camps in several other public land States are slated, but all campsites are subject to gubernatorial reviews.

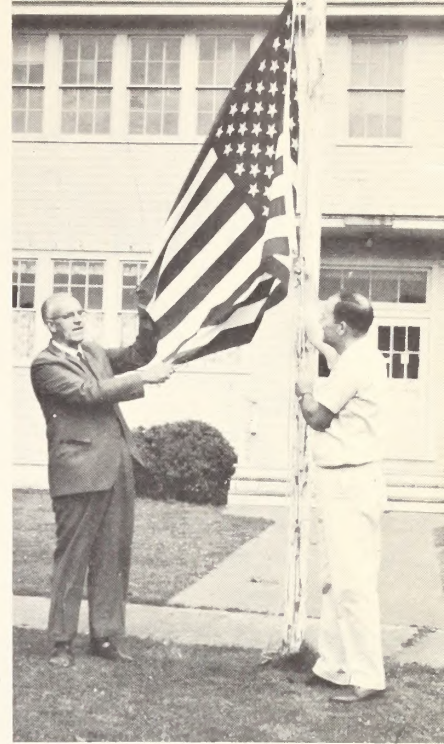
Enrollees will be young men, aged 16-21, who are neither employed nor in school and who, in most cases, lack the skills and education to garner a secure position in today's complex world. Most camps will include 100 to 200 enrollees and 23 or more staff members, most of whom will be employees of the administering agency.

## Rules Spelled Out for Helium Sales

Ways and means of selling to private industry the helium now being wasted on Federal oil and gas leases have been spelled out in regulations just issued by the Department of the Interior.

According to the regulations, qualified applicants will be granted extraction rights only if the helium is otherwise being wasted in the production of oil and helium-bearing gas or by drainage of helium-bearing gas. Proposals for the purpose of prospecting, exploration or development of new Federal helium deposits will not be considered.

Otto Krueger, BLM's Salem district manager, and William Rouse, Tillamook officer-in-charge, raise the flag at the former air base near Tillamook, Oregon. This will be BLM's first Job Corps camp.



To be qualified, the applicant must show proof of his financial and technical capability to carry out the proposed project.

At present, no helium extraction plants are operating on public lands.

## Most Expensive Meal of the Year

Some youths stole 20 Masked Bob White Quail from an Arizona research project recently and subsequently had what will probably be recorded as the most expensive meal of the year. The quail, part of a BLM-Allegheny Foundation and Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum project, were being bred in an attempt to re-establish the species in Arizona. More than \$20,000 had been spent so far, but money was the least important loss. It so happens that these quail—there were only 30 of them—are the only remaining Masked Bob Whites in the United States. State BLM Director Fred Weiler says that additional breeders might be captured in Mexico, but they are near extinction there, also!

## Agreements Signed With SCD

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has announced that the Department has signed working agreements with 38 additional Soil Conservation Districts in 14 States.

This makes a total of 160 such agreements in 34 States and Puerto Rico to improve the management and development of natural resources within districts. Action is pending on some 70 additional agreements.



# What the New Legislation Means to You

By Charles H. Stoddard,  
*Director, Bureau of Land Management*

A review of the most important legislation to be enacted in the history of public land conservation: the Public Land Law Review Commission Act, the Multiple-Use Act and the Public Sale Act



The 88th Congress laid the cornerstone for public land conservation.

Now, this Bureau—land manager of the public domain—can set about its business of developing the public-land complex according to its best uses. It has been empowered to do this by recent legislation that may well be the most important ever passed in the history of public land conservation.

Three separate Acts are involved: The Public Land Law Review Commission Act, Multiple-Use Act, and Public Sale Act. Together, they will fulfill five basic needs of public land management:

ONE: *The Commission will study our varied and complex land laws, and recommend action to insure that our public lands serve America's future generations in the most useful manner.*

Much existing legislation affecting our public lands is outmoded, having been passed during the agricultural era of American history. At that time, new frontiers lay ahead to be broken by the plow, for there was plenty of good, fertile land available within the public domain. This is not true today. There is great need to look at all our public land laws and policy with an eye to future needs and the means to meet them.

TWO: *Public lands will be classified for retention or disposition by the Secretary of the Interior under the Multiple-Use Act.*

THREE: *The Bureau will be able to meet the needs of local communities and individuals interested in acquiring public lands for local expansion. At the same*



Recreation opportunity, water conservation and wildlife habitat—all are benefited by recent legislation.



time, safeguards are included to prevent poorly coordinated land developments.

FOUR: *Multiple-use management of the public domain will be intensified* on the acreage classified for retention. This means that, among other things, the Bureau will be able to provide some of the modern-day recreation needs of our mushrooming population. Access roads can be constructed to accommodate the recreationist, and sanitation and protection facilities will be increased, serving to group recreationists within certain areas for safety and convenience.

FIVE: *The effectiveness of resource management will be increased greatly* through the identification of management areas. This will mean that our public lands will make a more meaningful contribution to the Nation's food, fibre and mineral needs.

### What the Laws Say

A most important element of the Land Law Review Commission Act is its declaration of purpose:

“ . . . that the public lands of the United States shall be (a) retained and managed or (b) disposed of, all in a manner to provide the maximum benefit for the general public.”

In short, it is the Commission's job to recommend what should be the best future uses for the public lands and the ways to attain these uses. In order to do this, it must analyze and recommend changes in the multitude of existing laws, regulations, policies, and procedures now affecting public land administration.

The Act provides that the Commission be composed



of 19 people, including 6 members each from the Senate and House Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs, and 6 appointed by the President. The 19th member, the Chairman, will be chosen by the 18 appointees.

Assisting the Commission in its work will be an Advisory Council, composed of liaison officers from each agency having a responsibility over the public lands, and 25 additional members appointed by the Commission from interested citizens' groups. The Act spells out that such citizens' groups will include: (1) Organizations representative of State and local government, private organizations working in the field of public land management and outdoor recreation resources and opportunities; (2) landowners; (3) forestry interests; (4) livestock interests; (5) mining interests; (6) oil and gas interests; (7) commercial and sport fishing interests; (8) commercial outdoor recreation interests; (9) industry; (10) education; (11) labor; and (12) public utilities.

Final report of the Commission is due December 31, 1968. However, conservation of public land resources and land transfers will not be held in abeyance until that time—a provision that is taken care of by the other two Acts.

Until the Commission's report is submitted, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized under the Multiple-Use Act to classify lands either for certain disposal uses or for interim management under principles of multiple use. He is given express authority to manage the retained lands for domestic livestock grazing, fish and wildlife development, industrial development, mineral development, occupancy, outdoor recreation,

timber production, watershed protection, wilderness preservation, or preservation of public values that would be lost if the land passed from Federal ownership.

The Public Sale Act enables communities and individuals to purchase larger tracts of land than heretofore possible and for wider uses. The Acts make possible the sale of "those lands required for the orderly growth and development of communities and those which are valuable for residential, commercial, industrial, or public uses and development."

The lands can be sold in tracts up to 5,120 acres in size, at the fair market value to communities and on a bid basis to qualified individuals. The Public Sale Act also assures that such lands will not be developed in patchwork fashion to the detriment of local government planning. Local governing bodies are to be consulted prior to all sales and afforded the opportunity of developing zoning regulations for the acquired lands.

Until now, the acreage that could be sold was too limited to be of practical value in most cases. Consequently, each time a community required such lands, Congress was obliged to pass a special law to solve the individual problem.

In administration of the new legislation, we will seek the active participation in public land activities by local governing bodies and private organizations. That is as it should be. The public lands should be the concern of every citizen from every walk of life, for everyone is a stockholder and will reap the dividends from their proper management.



New subdivisions are booming in many areas near public lands. Under new legislation, the Bureau is better able to transfer lands to local governments who need room for expansion.



# Recreationists Strike It Rich



By Ralph Herbert,  
*Resource Utilization Specialist,  
Sacramento, California*

Deep in the heart of California's Mother Lode country, citizens recently banded together for a celebration—but this time it wasn't a gold strike. It was the opening of Jackass Creek Access Road.

Built to provide access to heretofore untouched timber, the 5-mile stretch of road also means a bonanza to recreationists in the area. For the first time, the general public now has access to some of California's more beautiful and rugged terrain, and it affords residents a much-needed short route from Groveland to Coulterville.

Although the celebration was a unique affair, complete with stagecoach and Old West trappings, it wasn't the first nor the last one for Californians. Complete or nearing completion are at least 10 other roads, creating access to different masses of the public lands in California.

## To Help Hunters

The Riverside District is putting the finishing touches on a 13-mile roadway through San Diego County's picturesque McCain Valley, thus opening to the public some 38,000 acres of public lands; mostly good upland-game habitat producing quail, doves, rabbits, and a lesser number of deer, chukars, and bighorn sheep.

In the Lamont Meadows-Long Valley Region of Tulare County, Bakersfield District personnel are working on 18 miles of road that will add to the fire-control facilities of the area and open the way for hunters and fishermen to enjoy some 60,000 acres of wilderness.

Increased fire protection, additional recreation use and accessibility to salable timber will result from the 7 miles of road being completed in the Cinder Cone area of Shasta County. Some 28,000 acres of public domain, much of it excellent upland-game habitat, will be added to the public playgrounds.

## Cow Mountain Project

In the Cow Mountain Region of the Ukiah District, three different road projects will add major recreational possibilities to the 53,000 acres of public domain. Connecting existing paths and trails, the new roads will provide a route completely through a formerly impassable region.

Perhaps the greatest amount of public attention accrues to the Bureau activities in what is known as the King Range. Here, some 31,500 acres of public lands are being maintained and developed for outdoor recreational use. Access roads, hiking trails, and campsites are already used to capacity whenever the weather permits. More roads, additional camping, picnicking, and sanitary facilities are planned.

In every case, access roads into the public lands in California serve several purposes. Although recreational use has the greatest public appeal, fire protection, mineral exploration, timber development, and purposes of multiple use and conservation are their chief purpose.



An Oregon county tackles the problem of idle youth, and develops a park area at same time—some valuable tips to others embarking upon a summer job program for youths.

# How To Organize a Youth Task Force

By John F. Bowers,  
*Recreation Specialist, Portland, Oregon*

Last year, officials of Oregon's Multnomah County took a close look at a problem that is probably being shared by every local government in the Nation: The lack of summer jobs for teenagers.

The figures for Multnomah County, which includes the city of Portland, were about par for the Nation. Nearly 60,000 high school students in the Portland metropolitan area sought employment each summer, but only 3,500 jobs were available—for both boys and girls.

Fortunately, the officials were able to at least make a dent in the problem, thanks to two earlier events. In 1960 the city of Portland and Multnomah County established a Youth Commission to coordinate studies and action aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency. And last year, the county leased 280 acres on the oxbow of the Sandy River from the Bureau of Land Management under provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. That tract, together with adjacent tracts acquired by the county and provided by the Oregon State Game Commission, comprised the 750-acre Sandy River Oxbow Park.

## Perfect Combination

The combination was a natural. The Youth Director A. L. "Jack" Frost recommended summer employment of teenage boys to develop the area for public rec-

reation. County officials agreed and authorized \$85,000 for operation of the project. Here's what happened:

Several thousand boys who had just completed their first, second, or third years of high school applied for work on the Oxbow project, and employment was given to 220. They worked 8 hours a day constructing roads and trails, felling dead trees, removing brush, and doing other tasks incident to development of the public park. In addition, most of the boys did some fast "growing up" as they learned the meaning of "doing a day's work."

Originators of the Youth Task Force idea realized that proper supervision would be basic to the success of the project. Roland C. "Bud" Burgess, who had recently retired as a district manager for the Bureau of Land Management after 30 years of service—including experience in the Civilian Conservation Corps—was selected as director of the Youth Task Force.

## Hiring the Crew

Bud Burgess, with Youth Commission Director Jack Frost and Bob Bonney, superintendent of the Multnomah County Division of Parks and Memorials, hired 16 men to provide adult direction and assistance. Twelve of these men, who were local high school teachers and had had woods experience, served as foremen



Two-boy crew uses a crosscut saw to buck a tree into usable lengths.

Filling sandbags is a good way to build healthy bodies, and fast!



*Photographs courtesy of William B. Morse, Western representative for Wildlife Management Institute, and officials of Multnomah County, Oreg.*

The other men were oldtimers with outstanding woods experience who assisted in planning work, sharpening tools, etc. Foremen attended an advance 2-day training course on work procedures, standards and safety.

The Multnomah County Youth Task Force launched its 1963 effort on June 17, one week after school was out, and the project ended on August 23, for a total of 48 working days.

The boys lived at home and went to and from work in four school-type buses, thus eliminating the need for expensive camp facilities. The workday was from 8 to 4:30, with a half-hour lunch period.

Public, private, and parochial high school principals were requested to nominate students for employment who had varied abilities and who could both benefit from and contribute to the project. Some were honor

students while others were potential dropouts. Some were star athletes and others were not athletically inclined. But all who received letters notifying them of their crew assignments and where to meet the bus sensed the challenge and excitement of starting the Oxbow project.

### First Week of Training

Training in the proper use and care of tools was emphasized during the first week. Hard hats and safety equipment were provided by the Bureau of Land Management, as were handtools. Hard hats became a mark of distinction and identified the Oxbow boys, transforming their attitudes from those of kids on a lark to those of adults doing men's work.



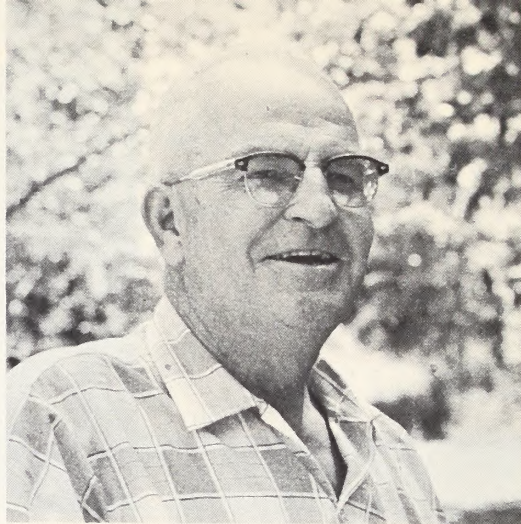
"Turnover was low," said Project Director Burgess. "Twenty boys left to take better paying jobs. Ten boys were discharged, three for slipping off and going swimming en route to a crew meeting, the other seven for prolonged goldbricking in spite of repeated warnings from their crew foremen."

### Safety Record

Award of Merit cards were presented to 180 boys at the end of the project. The promise of watermelon on Friday of each accident-free week was an incentive and reward for safety. Two such occasions were celebrated. Only 14 reportable accidents occurred during the summer.

The boys were paid twice monthly at the rate of \$5 per day. Forty-six junior leaders, who were designated by the foremen, received \$5.50 per day. Foremen were paid \$100 per week. Professional forestry and recreation planning and direction of the Oxbow project was coordinated by Bob Bonney, superintendent of the Multnomah County Division of Parks and Memorials, in cooperation with officials of the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. More than two dozen other agencies also cooperated in various ways to ensure success of the Oxbow project.

According to project officials, one of the significant benefits of the first year's operation was that the actual



Roland C. "Bud" Burgess,  
Director of the Youth Task Force.

monetary value of the work done far exceeded the cost of the project. Total cost of the project was \$89,340. This included \$7,494 allocated for tools, supplies, and picnic tables by the Bureau of Land Management from the Oregon and California Grant Lands Fund. The estimated value of the work accomplished totaled \$125,500. The value of keeping 220 boys occupied during the summer, of course, is inestimable.



Director Burgess addresses the group on "graduation day". Awards of merit were presented to 180 youths.



## Follow-up Procedures

At the end of the summer, questionnaires were sent the parents of the boys who comprised the Youth Task Force. Eighty percent responded—an unusually high proportion, especially since return envelopes and postage were not provided. Without exception, parents were enthusiastic. Typical comments were: “He learned to work.” “He became a man.” “He found out that money doesn’t grow on trees, not even Oxbow trees.”

Basic benefits to the participants were apparent. They included physical development, pride in achievement, ability to work with others, the discipline of holding a job, the capacity to earn, and other more subtle and intangible benefits. Gratifying reports have been received from school principals indicating the improved attitudes of boys who had been disciplinary

cases. A very significant benefit to the community was the satisfaction in knowing that an opportunity for youth to earn a place in the community had been provided without any stigma of correction, welfare, or make-work.

Multnomah County expanded the project for 1964 to include approximately 325 boys. Forty undeveloped county park areas were acquired and Youth Task Force crews rotating between work at the large Oxbow Park and the smaller neighborhood areas made significant contributions to the county park system this year. Tom McCall, Portland radio and television news analyst and chairman of the Metropolitan Youth Commission said, “It’s a good deal all around. Other communities ought to join in this tiny contribution to the massive dilemma of unemployed youth. They can’t afford not to do it.”

The program has shown a way that youth-employment opportunities and recreational development can be assisted in an economic manner to the benefit of the community. These methods can be adapted to fit many local conditions.

## THE OXBOW PROJECT

### Estimated Value of Work Accomplished

Road clearing, approximately 3 miles.	\$1,500
General cleanup of approximately 500 acres	100,000
Windfall cleanup and making firewood for future use	4,800
Snag felling, approximately 1,000 snags	1,000
Trail construction, approximately 10 miles	4,000
Toilet procurement and installation, 8 pit-type toilets	1,600
Table procurement and/or assemble and store, 100 cedar tables	4,000
Spring prospecting and water development	500
Fence construction	300
Administrative cabins, four	800
Construct storage shed, 40' x 24' shake and pole construction	3,000
Thinning and pruning stagnated stands of Douglas-fir; approximately 40 acres of heavy thickets opened and improved	
Estimated value of stand development	1,200
Estimated value of 4,000 poles	800
Split posts and shakes for use in camp development	
Estimated value of 500 posts	350
Estimated value of 40 squares of shakes	600
Eradication of tansy ragwort on entire 750 acres	600
Ditching and drainage control, approximately 1,000'	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$125,550</b>

## Eight Recommendations

The director of the Oxbow project offers these recommendations to any communities who want to establish Youth Task Forces.

1. Organize and plan a year in advance.
2. Enlist the support of high school officials in selecting participants, and have students from several schools on each crew.
3. Make the project large enough to afford adult staff specialists for increased efficiency. These might be retired resource-oriented men.
4. Avoid the expense of setting up an organized camp by using the day-haul system.
5. Select resource-trained managers to head the project; CCC experience is highly desirable.
6. Foremen must be trained for forest project work and youth leadership. Properly experienced high school teachers are ideal and available.
7. Strict supervision is essential—never hesitate to discharge a boy for cause.
8. Build up a healthy competitive spirit and morale.

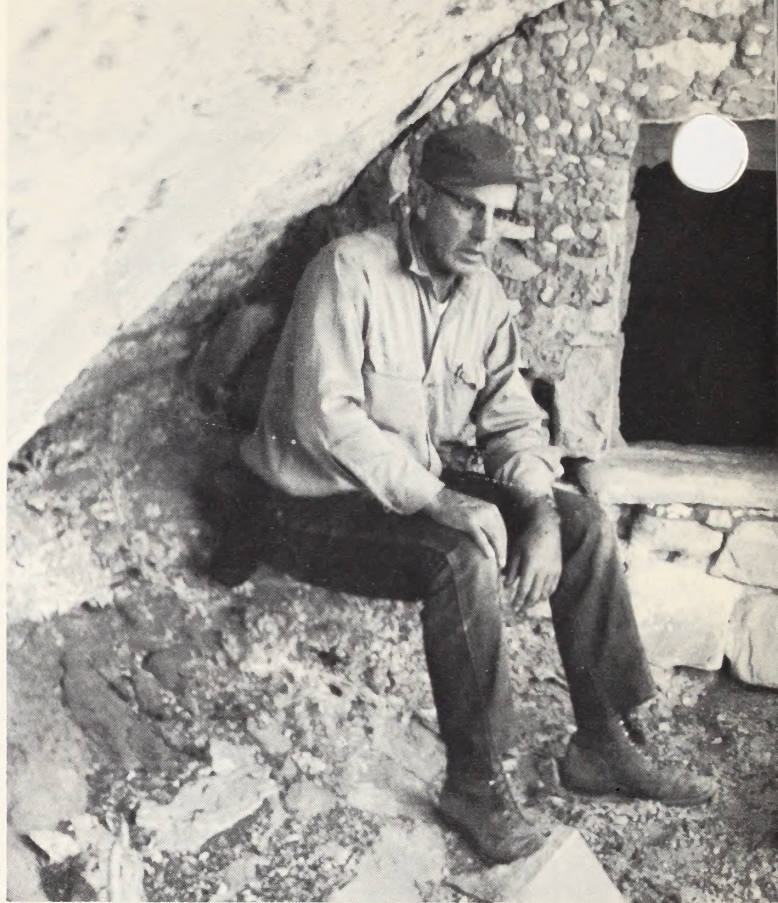
A ninth point should be added—stand back, ready to be amazed at the work the young men will accomplish. It must be seen to be believed!



By Jack Reed,  
*Resource Utilization Specialist,  
Salt Lake City, Utah*

# Treasures of the Anasazi

Ancient ruins on the public lands reveal the culture of our first high-rise apartment dwellers. These are treasures that must be protected!



In southeastern Utah and southwestern Colorado located a rather isolated area of public lands—about as large as Delaware and Rhode Island combined—which is a veritable archeological treasure house.

This is Anasazi country—land of fascinating history.

Where did these people come from? Where did they go? Not all of the answers are known by the archeologists. But it is certain that they were a people with a relatively high culture for their time.

Evidences of settlements, built an estimated thousand years ago or more, are abundant over this Utah-Colorado area. There are cliff dwellings, in diverse sizes and in varying degrees of preservation. A shard, or fragment of an earthen vessel, can be found here and there; and it isn't inconceivable to find a centuries-old, dried-up ear of corn.

This is the original home of the Anasazi (sometimes called Moki), or ancient people, who inhabited the area from about the opening of the Christian Era until about 1400, or just before Columbus discovered America.

## Apartment Houses

They used broken chunks of sandstone to build their dwellings. Some were structured where there were





Reed Wilson of the Monticello District Office sits beside entrance to living quarters. Large stones were used in the doorway and mud served as mortar.

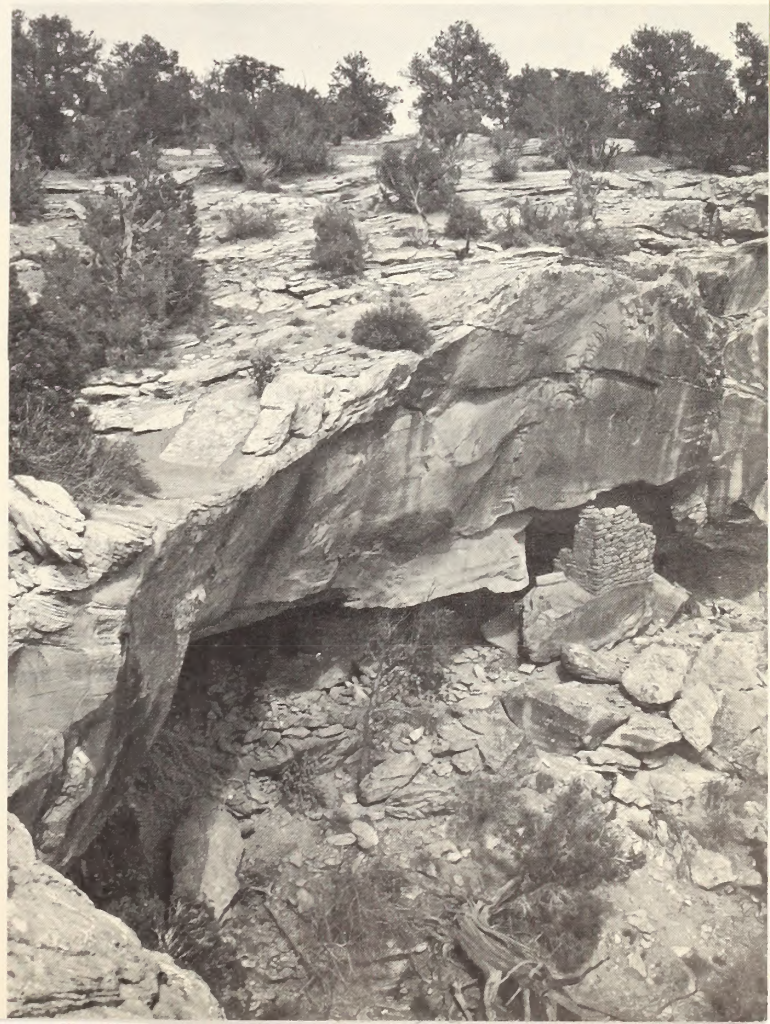
Part of a former Moki community was found in the shelter of a cliff overhang at the head of Comb Wash 30 miles southwest of Monticello.



This is an example of petroglyphs found on the public lands in Utah. Lying on the ground they are subject to looting by treasure hunters.

overhangs in precipitous cliffs, with the building stones (sometimes mortared with mud) blending in with the sandstone cliff face. Narrow, treacherous trails—sometimes with toe-and-finger holds hewn out of the solid rock—led to the prehistoric “apartment houses-with-a-view” and made it rather easy for the groups to defend themselves, if necessary.

In some places the sandstone blocks were used to erect multistoried towers on plateaus in the region. There also are remains on the plateaus of dwellings





that had rooms partially excavated in the earth. These latter structures have caved in and have been filled by shifting sand and dirt blown across the wind-swept plateaus over the centuries. There are remains of storage rooms, also of turkey corrals and expressive petroglyphs.\*

In due time, as funds become available, the entire area will be probed for artifacts and all ruins will be uncovered and made available for public viewing. Meanwhile, steps must be taken to protect the area from natural and man-caused destruction.

### Protection Needed

An amateur archeologist—or even worse, a person who knows nothing about the subject—can ruin or completely destroy a valuable site by unpracticed or greedy digging. Domestic livestock and big game sometimes push over walls of ruins and trample the area, breaking up any artifacts on the surface. Prospectors, road builders, and miners mutilate the ruins with their heavy equipment. During surface clearing operations (in preparation for seeding or other range improvements) pinon-juniper trees may be ripped from the ground with their root systems tearing up subsurface ruins that are not readily evident on the surface. “Recreationists” destroy the significance of a site as they collect souvenirs.

Then there are people who wantonly bulldoze an area in search of pottery or other relics that can be sold to tourists, or, if the artifact is significant, to a university or museum. In recent years, some companies have purchased shards by the pound in order to use them in making mosaic table tops. In attempting to locate and uncover the shards, the bulldozer sometimes destroys the site, along with the artifacts—and a historical link in time.

This is a problem that faces the Bureau of Land Management, which administers the 2 million acres or so in the present States of Utah and Colorado on which the Anasazi prospered and died centuries ago.

### Antiquities Act

On the Nation’s public lands that it administers, BLM has the responsibility for carrying out provisions of the Antiquities Act passed by Congress on June 8, 1906. By this act a person may not, without permission, “appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of an-

\*A carving or inscription upon a rock. Often, a petroglyph refers to carving etched into the rock, whereas a pictograph refers to a painting drawn on the rock.

tiquity” on lands under Federal Government control. A person found guilty of violating this law can be fined up to \$500 or imprisoned for not more than 90 days, both.

Protecting the cliff dwellings is not too difficult. Their very location makes them relatively inaccessible. Usually there are only limited roads into the deep canyons where these structures may be found. With limited additional manpower, check stations can be maintained on these access roads.

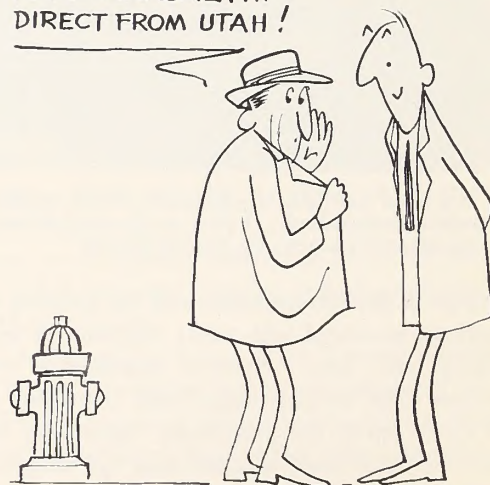
Quite different however, is the problem of protecting antiquities on the plateaus, where the mound-type ruins are abundant. Here there is practically no limit to access, so check points are inconceivable without prohibitively expensive fencing of vast areas.

The task is monumental. Plans call for such projects as fencing, flood and erosion control where necessary, and the establishment of picnic and campgrounds if such will contribute to the general protection of the area. Interpretive materials will be placed where appropriate.

As roads and facilities are improved in this vast southeastern Utah and southwestern Colorado region, this fascinating page in America’s history book will pay rich rewards to tomorrow’s tourist—if today’s visitors cooperate in preserving them.

## LAW of the LAND

RARE ANASAZI...  
DIRECT FROM UTAH!



A person may not, without permission, appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument or any object of antiquity on Federal lands.





The Bill Adams family lives in a log cabin designed as a combination office and residence. An experienced hunter, Bill's "meat market" is not too far from his back door.

# Frontier Family In Alaska

By Elmer Shaw,  
*Resource Utilization Specialist, Anchorage, Alaska*



Playing host to helicopters on one's front lawn, or dispatching smokejumpers during a frantic fire season, or shooting a moose, then skinning and dressing it out sounds like an exciting life, even for a man. But for Betty Adams, BLM's radio dispatcher at McGrath, Alaska and mother of six children, it's just routine.

Pioneer life on the Alaskan frontier was not exactly the career Betty had planned for herself. Trained as a school teacher with a degree in sociology, she had expected to settle down to a quiet routine of classroom teaching in some sleepy mountain town.

But her plans changed abruptly when she married Bill Adams, a forestry graduate from Montana State University. His career soon took them to McGrath, where he is district forester with a responsibility over 75 million acres!

Although both are native Montanans, Betty and Bill like Alaska and the rugged life it has thrust upon them. For relaxation, they cruise the Kuskokwin River in a 22-foot riverboat, weather permitting, and they go hunting together to bring in meat for the winter.

In two giant deepfreezes, they keep the Dall sheep and mountain goats that Bill contributes, besides all the salmon, shee fish, grayling, wild blueberries, raspberries, cranberries and shaggy mane mushrooms that they manage to stow away every summer. They grow their own cabbage, peas, carrots, beets, rhubarb, broccoli and strawberries in their garden.

Rough?

"Well, I wouldn't say it was easy, raising a family of six children out here in the wilderness, but I certainly wouldn't trade it for life in a big city," Betty points out.

And there just might be some commuters who agree!





# Drive Right!

By Robert E. Hostetter,  
*Resource Utilization Specialist, Portland, Oregon*

Does anything about this picture seem unusual to you? Besides the fact that you seldom see so large a load of logs!

That's right, the trucks are being driven in the *left-hand* lanes, on the *wrong* side of the road!

This picture, which was taken several years ago, shows trucks on one branch of the Robert Dollar Company road system serving the Cow Creek drainage in the Medford District, located in southwestern Oregon. When the road was first constructed and the shoulders were soft, the loaded log trucks coming down hill traditionally took the solid ground on the inside, next to the mountain. There was less chance of spilling a load of logs into the canyon if soft ground gave way.

The logging roads were mostly single-lane, and loaded trucks had the right-of-way. Empties or other uphill traffic had to take a turnout or quickly back down to a wider place in the road where the loaded truck could get by.

## Traffic Increased

Traffic on the Cow Creek road system increased. New roads made more BLM timber accessible, and the Bureau purchased the 80-mile system in 1962 to guarantee all prospective timber purchasers equal rights of access, to reduce transportation costs, and to effect some needed road improvements.

Use of the road by recreationists increased, too. Fishermen heading for the lower Rogue River and tourists driving to the Pacific coast found that new BLM roads had opened convenient routes for them to use.

Logging equipment repairmen, BLM and private foresters, logging crews, and others were using the roads with greater frequency. Even experienced drivers of logging roads occasionally became confused when it was necessary to sometimes drive on the left side and sometimes on the right side in order to let logging trucks use the inside.

## No More Thrills

The confusion has ended now. In most places the mainline roads are double lane and the entire roadbed is firm. Where the roads are single lane, turnouts are intervisible. So, new traffic signs were posted this year which instruct all vehicles to "drive right."

The thrill of rounding a curve to meet a logging truck head on has diminished, but it's safer that way.





and

# "How Can I Buy Public Lands?"

*Questions are based on those most frequently asked in letters received by the Bureau of Land Management*

## **Can I obtain public land for private use?**

Yes, under limited circumstances and under provisions of several laws, public domain land may be sold or leased to private citizens. Such land generally first must be classified for disposition under the law.

## **What are BLM lands like?**

Outside Alaska, BLM lands are generally arid or semiarid, and most often are distant from larger towns and cities of the West. The larger percentage is brush-grass rangeland. However, some are forested and some are barren. A substantial part is mountainous and semimountainous areas. These lands are important to the Nation, particularly for livestock and wildlife grazing, timber and mineral production, outdoor recreation, and water conservation. In Alaska, BLM lands are generally distant from roads and communities. Much is tundra, glacier, and mountain. Scenic and wildlife resources are superb.

## **How may I obtain public domain land?**

The most common way in which an individual may obtain public land is by purchase. But some opportunities still exist under other laws—such as the homestead and desert land laws.

## **If I locate homestead land, what then?**

Before the applicant can begin his term of living on and farming the land, the land must be classified by BLM as suited for agricultural development. But remember, investments in time and money for homesteading can run higher than the purchase of an existing farm on the open market.

## **How else may I obtain public land?**

BLM Land Offices may hold public auctions for tracts of up to 5 acres, which have been classified for residential, recreational, community, or business purposes. Bids for these may be submitted to the Land Office in person or through the mail.

## **How much do small tracts cost?**

All small tracts are sold at fair market value. Prices vary with the quality of the land and the value of nearby private property. Often, prices range from several hundred to several thousand dollars.

## **How can I find out about public domain land sales?**

You can obtain notices of public land sales in a given area free of charge from the BLM Land Office for that area. Some notices of sales also are published in the *Federal Register* (\$1.50 per month from the Superintendent of Documents; U.S. Government Printing Office; Washington, D.C., 20402).

## **Is there a current listing of all public domain lands offered for sale?**

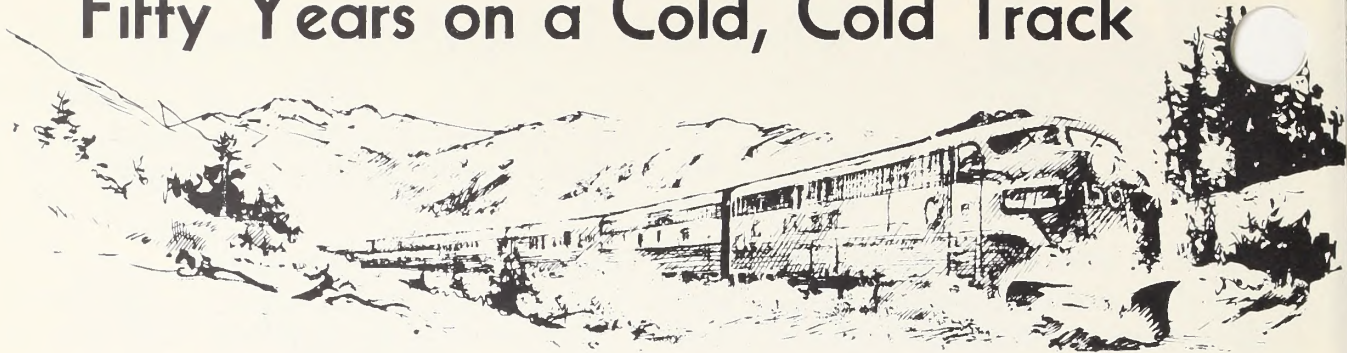
There is no one current, complete listing available of all public domain lands offered for sale, partly due to the rapidly changing status of available lands. Notices available from the Land Offices are the most current information on land sales, and are available free of charge.

## **Where are BLM Land Offices located?**

Following are addresses of BLM Land Offices:  
*Arizona*—3204 Federal Building, P.O. Box 148, Phoenix, 85025. *California*—Federal Building, 650 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, 95814; 1414 Eighth Street, P.O. Box 723, Riverside, 92502. *Colorado*—700 Gas and Electric Building, 910 15th Street, Denver, 80202. *Idaho*—323 Federal Building, P.O. Box 2237, Boise, 83701. *Montana*—1245 North 29th Street, Billings, 59101. *Nevada*—560 Mill Street, P.O. Box 1551, Reno, 89505. *New Mexico*—113 Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 1251, Santa Fe, 87501. *Oregon*—710 Northeast Holladay, Portland, 97232. *Utah*—Darling Building, P.O. Box 777, Salt Lake City, 84110. *Washington*—670 Bon Marche Building, North 214 Wall, Spokane, 99201. *Wyoming*—2002 Capital Avenue, P.O. Box 929, Cheyenne, 82001. *Alaska*—Cordova Building, 555 Cordova St., Anchorage, 99501. *All other States*—Eastern States Land Office, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 20240.



# Fifty Years on a Cold, Cold Track



Although The Alaska Railroad was born on March 12, 1914, when its enabling act was signed by President Wilson, its history actually began nearly a decade and a half before that time. Just before the turn of the century private railroad companies, attracted by the increase in population occasioned by the Klondike gold rush, filed for many routes in Alaska. The first successful one was Canadian and British in origin. This narrow-gauge road began at Skagway, Alaska, and extended 110 miles to Whitehorse in Yukon Territory. It was completed in 1901 as the White Pass and Yukon and has been in continuous operation since.

Other successful Alaskan railroads were the Copper River and Northwestern from Cordova to a copper bonanza near the Wrangell Mountains, and the Tanana Valley Railroad, a narrow-gauge operation extending 46 miles from Fairbanks to the Chatinika mining community. The Copper River and Northwestern was abandoned when the copper deposits were worked out and the Tanana Valley was later absorbed into The Alaska Railroad.

## The First Link

Most of the other ventures were financial failures, including the Alaska Central Railway, which began building from Seward through the Kenai Peninsula in 1903. The Alaska Central, however, was the genesis of The Alaska Railroad. It did not survive the panic of 1907 and went into receivership in 1908. It was reorganized as The Alaska Northern and trackage was completed to Kern Creek on Turnagain Arm. The Alaska Northern also failed, but with its purchase by the Government in 1915, became the first link in The Alaska Railroad.

Both Federal and private interest in the development of a railroad in south central Alaska was centered on the hope of exploiting Alaska's vast coal resources. There was a major Alaskan coal field in the Matanuska Valley and another in the Healy River area north of the Alaska Range. Either could be an important

source of coal for the Navy if they could be tapped by railroad.

## Commission Appointed

The act of August 24, 1912, which created the incorporated Territory of Alaska and established a territorial legislature, contained a section authorizing the President to appoint a commission to study the transportation situation in the Territory. President Taft promptly appointed such a commission which reported, in 1913, that two railroads should be built in Alaska—one from Cordova to Fairbanks, and the other from Seward, on the Kenai Peninsula, around Cook Inlet to the Iditarod River. The report was sent to the Congress by President Taft with the suggestion that the Government should build and own the railroads recommended, if Congress should approve, but that they should be privately operated.

The result of congressional reaction to President Taft's recommendations was the act of March 12, 1914, which authorized the President to construct and operate a railroad "to connect one or more of the open Pacific Ocean Harbors of the southern coast of Alaska with the interior navigable waters and the coal fields". The law further authorized the lease to private parties of the proposed railroad. It was specific neither with respect to a name for the railroad nor the route which should be followed from "open Pacific Ocean Harbors" to the interior and the coal fields.

## Rail Route Selected

On May 2, 1914, President Wilson directed the Secretary of the Interior to select a rail route within the general direction of the statute. An Alaskan Engineering Commission was appointed by the President—Lieutenant Frederick Mears, Thomas Riggs, Jr., and W. C. Edes. On May 8, 1914, the Secretary of the Interior directed this commission to begin the work authorized by the March 12, 1914, law.

By Presidential Executive Order of April 10, 1915, the present route was selected, and the Commission



A vital link for much of our public lands, The Alaska Railroad celebrates its 50th year of continuous service. Its story is a saga of survival—through ice storms, snow avalanches and earthquakes



was directed to begin work of construction. By the end of April 1915, Commission members were at Ship Creek at the head of Cook Inlet where railroad tents marked the beginning of the present City of Anchorage. Work was also begun on rehabilitating the purchased Alaska Northern track and roadway from Seward to Turnagain Arm.

### **From Panama to Alaska**

In accordance with the authority given by the act of March 12, 1914, machinery and material generally was transferred to Alaska from the Panama Canal Zone. A purchasing office was established in Seattle, later to be supplemented with offices in Portland and San Francisco. A railroad dock was built at Anchorage and a townsite was laid out. Only 13 miles of fully constructed tracks were completed in 1915. This grew to 73 miles by the end of 1916 and to 176 miles by the end of 1917.

World War I inevitably slowed up construction, but by 1923 the main line was through to Fairbanks. On July 15, 1923, President Harding marked the occasion of the joining of the rails at Nenana by driving the golden spike. (This was among his last official acts, for the President died on the return voyage.) Although ceremonially completed it did not become a first class railroad in terms of track and roadway, rolling stock, buildings, and equipment, until the decade of the 50's.

The early day operation was expensive to maintain, and traffic and revenues were far from promising. In 1929, for example, operating income was \$1,266,052 and operating expenses were \$2,186,234. The period of deficits, however, ended in 1939. World War II completely changed the financial prospects, and there have been no congressional appropriations to meet operating expense deficits since that year. World War II also occasioned the building by the Army of the Whittier cutoff to the then military port of Whittier. When completed it was turned over to The Alaska Railroad.

### **The Big Decision**

After the end of the war, The Alaska Railroad was faced with a major crisis. Equipment had been literally worn out in carrying war-created traffic and Congress was faced with the choice of rebuilding or abandoning. The decision was made to rebuild and in the decade of the 50's, with an expenditure of more than \$90 million, The Alaska Railroad became for the first time a modern, well-equipped line. Steam engines were abandoned for diesels, untreated ties for treated ones, 115-pound rail was laid for the entire 470 miles of main line, new shops were built and old buildings modernized.

During the past 10 years, revenues have totaled about \$15 million per year and deficits have been few. Those that have occurred have been financed from retained earnings and the Railroad has continued its record of no congressional appropriations, either for operating expenses or for capital improvements.

### **Modern Methods Employed**

The Alaska Railroad has won something of a reputation for its advanced development of containerized and piggyback transportation. Through cooperation with water carriers and motor truck operators, the Railroad has developed what a former head of the U.S. Army Transportation Corps has called one of the best examples of integrated transportation anywhere in the world.

The last major Alaska Railroad development preceding the earthquake concerned the inauguration of sea-train operations to the Port of Whittier. Car-barge service began between Prince Rupert and Whittier in 1962 and between Seattle and Whittier in 1963. A modern roll-on, roll-off vessel began sea-train operations to Whittier from Seattle this year. In spite of the earthquake these services are operating to Whittier and proved the major factor in enabling the Alaska Rail-belt to avoid a transportation crisis during the weeks following March 27.



## At the Jamboree . . .

Some 45,000 Boy Scouts were oriented on the concept of "total resource conservation" at the Boy Scout Jamboree at Valley Forge, Pa., during July. Their guides were all resource specialists from agencies—including BLM—throughout the country.

BLM guides were Bob Martin, Don Truesdell, Jerry McIntyre, Lowell Brown, and John Gumert. During the one-week outing, they each had personal conferences with some 1,000 men and boys, furnishing details on conservation problems and needs.

Valley Forge will be the site of another great Scouting convention in 1966, when the World Jamboree is held.



## BLM to the Rescue . . .

Acts of heroism by BLM employees are becoming downright commonplace!

Not long after two BLM men in the Vale District of Oregon rescued a ranch grandmother who had become pinned between her car and a house, two foresters in the Coos Bay District rescued a woman who had slipped and fractured her leg. They alerted a doctor, arranged for her transportation to town, turned off the cook stove, and left a note for her husband telling of the accident.

And in Colorado, a Grand Junction man pulled a family from a car submerged in a creek, and saved the baby's life by applying artificial respiration.

## Foresters Use Paper To Help Grow Seedlings

Ponderosa pine seedlings grow up to become trees. Trees are used to make paper. Paper is used to help seedlings grow. Sounds like a never-ending cycle, but it's one that BLM foresters are very happy about.

The ponderosa pine seedling pictured here is surrounded by a sheet of laminated kraft paper mulch, a protective device which greatly increases its chances for survival.

According to Edwin Zaidlicz, chief of the Division of Forest Management, the technique of mulching with paper is being used on BLM forest plantations with good success.

"It is particularly effective on dry, exposed sites where the mulch preserves soil moisture in the area immediately surrounding the newly planted seedlings," Zaidlicz reports. The mulch also suppresses competition from other plants, such as grasses, during the critical period in which small trees are becoming established, he said.

The Bureau of Land Management reforests denuded areas, not only to assure future timber crops but to protect watershed and soil values. Too, areas supporting vigorous green growth of young trees present very pleasant vistas, enhancing their value for recreation.

In 1963 more than 40,000 acres of public lands were reforested by either direct seeding or planting of nursery-grown seedlings. More than 11 million seedlings and 12,000 pounds of seed were used in last year's program.









# How Should Pinon-Juniper Lands Be Managed?

By Herb Cobleigh,  
*Forester, Eugene District Office, Eugene, Oregon*

Studies are now underway to find the answer to a long-standing problem in the West. The ultimate goal: To determine the highest productive use on millions of acres of pinon-juniper lands in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

Some 60 million acres of Western lands, half of which are managed by the Bureau of Land Management, are covered by pinon pines and juniper trees. Except for such uses as fence posts, edible pinon nuts, fuel and Christmas trees, these low-growing forests have little current commercial value. Too, in some instances, soil erosion may occur after even modest rainfalls in pinon-juniper woodlands, especially where there has been a disturbance of soil or vegetation by overgrazing or other abuses.

In the past, the major recognized values of these lands has been in the assortment of brush, grass, and annual plants which provide varying amounts of habitat for wildlife and forage for domestic livestock, and consequently, management efforts have been aimed mainly at improving the production of forage. Thousands of acres have been cleared of trees and seeded during recent years in order to convert the better potential range sites to grass and browse.

## Long Range Effect?

While there is no doubt that clearing and reseeding improve the forage (studies show that forage production can jump fourfold under some circumstances with proper management), the Bureau is concerned about the long-range effect of such practices. For example, how will the reduction of pinon-juniper stands affect watershed protection and water yield? How much can these stands, under proper management and spacing,



increase big game numbers, produce additional salable fibre or other woodland products for future markets?

In search of some management guides, the Bureau has begun a cooperative research program with Utah State University. The initial study, which is presently underway, is scheduled to take about two years and involves two separate teams of researchers. One is studying the ecological aspects of the problem, including the soils, topography, climate, and vegetation. The other is covering matters related to economics and marketing.

A major goal of the ecological group is to develop a method for determining the maximum productivity potential of various areas. To do this, they are studying the effect of soils, topography, vegetation, and climate upon the trees. At the same time, the economists are comparing costs with benefits to determine the most practical approach to management of the woodlands' many resources.



## Changing Values

It is possible to establish a reasonably firm value for several of the woodland products including fuel, Christmas trees, fence posts and pinon nuts; but uses are changing. For instance, the use of steel fence posts is increasing, even where trees are available for such products. Changing tastes on the part of the consumer may cause gradual shifts in the Christmas tree market. This is indicated by an increasing demand for pinon pine Christmas trees. There are also indications that commercial production of charcoal from these trees may be feasible.

While the value of this woodland type for wildlife and livestock forage is well recognized, the question often exists as to what management and improvement practices should be employed to maintain the proper balance between big game and domestic livestock use.

There are other features of the pinon-juniper woodlands, which are even more difficult to evaluate, such as water yield, including quantity and quality, recreation, scenic beauty, and protection from the wind. These, too, will be considered in the study.

It is hoped that Government and private land managers alike will be able to apply results of this research to achieve full multiple-use of the entire pinon-juniper woodlands. If so, it will boost the economy of a vital five-state area in America's West.



Fence posts are one of the most important uses now existing for the pinon-juniper species. Those shown here were thinned from an area prior to a chaining operation, then erected around the site to protect the subsequent seeding project.





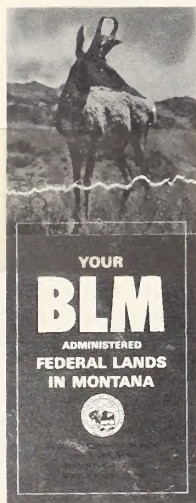
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# Where to Hunt and Fish on Public Lands



BLM's State offices are working under the assumption that, in order for a citizen to hunt and fish on public lands, first he must know where the lands are located. This is not an easy matter, as anyone knows who has ventured forth over the mountainous and isolated terrain which typifies public lands of the West.

Eight State offices—Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, Oregon, Alaska, Nevada, and Montana—have published hunting and fishing maps recently, and all public land states will have them available soon.

